



April 2005

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Gillmor Washington Update

As your Representative in Congress, I am proud to represent Ohio's Fifth Congressional District in Washington, DC.

In order to keep the citizens of the Fifth District better informed and up to date on my activities in Washington, DC and back home in Ohio, I have published the April edition of my monthly newsletter. It is my goal to provide you with the information you need to stay informed on the issues important to Ohio. In this edition of my Monthly Update, I have focused on the important events that have taken place in the month of March and inform you of upcoming April events in the Fifth District. I hope that you will find this information beneficial. Please contact me should you have any questions or comments.

Local Officials Meet at the Pentagon to Discuss 180th Fighter Wing

On Tuesday, March 8th, I arranged a meeting with the Department of Defense and local officials regarding the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) process and the 180th Fighter Wing. The meeting took place with Philip W. Grone, Deputy Undersecretary for Installations and Environment, Acquisition, Technology and Logistics to discuss BRAC and the 180th Fighter Wing.

Since the 2005 BRAC process is just beginning, I felt it was important to meet with Undersecretary Grone to outline the vital role of our base in Northwest Ohio. Our meeting was a significant demonstration of our community's support for the 180th. I am confident that we showed both the defense and community development roles of the Fighter Wing to Northwest Ohio.

I was joined at the Pentagon by Mayor Jack Ford, Mark V'Soske, President of the Toledo Area Chamber of Commerce, Wendy Gramza, Executive Vice President of the Toledo Area Chamber of Commerce, Bob Decker, Retired Squadron Commander of



Congressman Gillmor checks out an F-16 Fighting Falcon at the 180th Fighter Wing.

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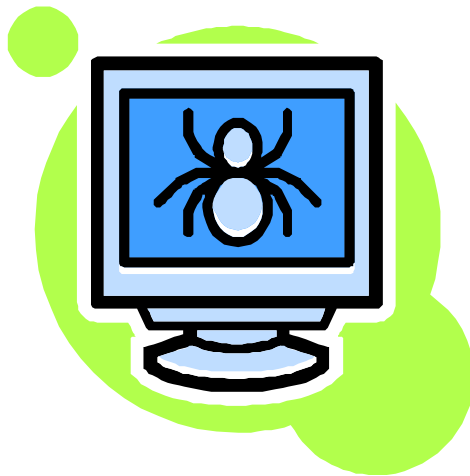
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the 180th Fighter Wing, and Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur.

The Toledo Chamber of Commerce has spearheaded the efforts to retain the 180th Fighter Wing and I was pleased that elected officials as well as officials from the chamber were on hand to show our support for the 180th.

Your Congress: Working to End Spyware

Have you ever received an email from someone saying that you have won millions of dollars and only need to send your bank account information to receive your winnings? Perhaps your computer is reacting sluggishly or your settings have been changed without your knowledge. Well, if the House of Representatives has its way, these abusive and harmful actions may soon be illegal. The Energy and Commerce Committee, of which I am a member, passed legislation in March entitled the Securely Protect Yourself Against Cyber Trespass Act (SPY ACT) by a unanimous vote. I am proud to have been an original cosponsor of this legislation.



The SPY ACT would do more than regulate "phishing" emails including requiring software companies to get a computer user's permission before installing programs which collect personal information, outlawing keystroke logging, computer hijacking and online advertisements which cannot be stopped. Each of these abuses may damage your computer, your credit, and your life.

In today's world of email and chatting, online banking, web purchases and Internet based businesses, consumer protection is the ultimate goal. Where there is innovation, there will always be a dishonest person ready to cheat you out of your hard earned money. The technological advancements of our nation have developed and enhanced our economy and our standard of living, however, we must remain ever vigilant with the protection of people's rights.

Regulation of the Internet is increasingly difficult, in part, because of the global marketplace and worldwide legal variations. Controlling harmful technology is also difficult because of the speed in which innovation occurs and the deliberation which is required by Congress to pass laws. While the passage of this act by the Energy and Commerce Committee is significant, many challenges remain. Detecting, confirming and prosecuting the users of spyware will be an ongoing task of law enforcement. However, I am pleased that the SPY ACT will empower the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) with the legal force necessary to protect all Americans.

The SPY ACT was passed by the U.S. House in 2004 by a vote of 399 to 1. Unfortunately, it failed to receive a vote in the U.S. Senate last year.

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I look forward to the SPY ACT receiving a full debate in the House again and remain hopeful that the U.S. Senate will consider this important legislation this year.

Your Congress: Creating a National Energy Policy

Once again, the average price for a gallon of gasoline is soaring. Increasing from a low of just 86 cents in 1999, today's gasoline prices have effects across the board, from your personal travel to the costs of goods you purchase to worker layoffs and slowed production. While there are many influences on gas prices in America, I believe the passage of a national energy bill will help relieve this burden on our country. This week, as Ohioans are paying almost \$2.20 per gallon of gas, the House of Representatives will once again debate a comprehensive national energy plan.

In the last Congress, after the House passed the energy bill, it received 58% of the vote in the U.S. Senate. Unfortunately, Senate rules require any legislation which is challenged with a filibuster to receive a 60 vote super-majority for passage rather than a simple majority. As such, this vital legislation once again failed to receive

a proper debate in the Senate. As a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and the sole Ohioan on the Energy Conference Committee, a select group of members of the House and Senate formed to work out a compromise on the energy bill in the 108th Congress, I remain optimistic about the prospects of this year's energy package. Currently, the House Energy and Commerce Committee is in the midst of debating the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Among the many important provisions in the energy bill are the creation of an estimated half million new jobs, increased oil production, blackout protection, controlling fertilizer costs by stabilizing natural gas prices and enacting new efficiency benchmarks. In addition, the bill requires the blending of 2.7 billion gallons of ethanol and renewable-based fuel with gasoline by 2005. The required volume would rise to 5 billion gallons annually by 2015. The majority of this requirement would be met with ethanol (made from corn) but renewable fuels such as biodiesel (made from soybeans and vegetable oil) would also qualify- certainly a benefit to NW Ohio farmers.

The energy bill also provides incentives for renewable energies such as biomass, wind, solar, geothermal and hydroelectric power. These provisions in the energy bill, which provide tax credits for the production of energy using clean coal and renewable fuels, will save consumers mil-



Congressman Gillmor looks at a new Hybrid Ford Escape outside of the Capitol.

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lions of dollars in the marketplace.

In addition, each barrel of oil we save through conservation further decreases our dangerous reliance on unstable Middle East oil. America's oil supply is greatly dependent on OPEC, the same cartel responsible for the embargo that rattled our economy three decades ago. Then we relied on foreign production for 30 percent of our oil. Today, we import nearly 62 percent of the oil used domestically. Our increased dependence on foreign oil only further demonstrates the need for congressional action on the energy bill.

As the cost of gasoline rises and our dependence on foreign oil continues to increase, the effect of sending over \$100 billion each year to OPEC nations hurts every American. I look forward to a healthy debate on a national energy plan in both the U.S. House and Senate and strive for a resolution to this mounting problem. For more information on issues important to the Fifth District, please check my website at <http://www.house.gov/gillmor/>.

Focus on the Fifth: Touring the Bucyrus Railroad Depot

In March, I had the privilege of visiting the Toledo and Ohio Central Railroad Depot in Bucyrus. I was pleased to see the many great renovations taking place at the depot. The renovations which are taking place on the



Congressman Gillmor discusses renovation progress at the Bucyrus Railroad Depot.

train depot are truly remarkable. The Bucyrus Station is a part of our history and has earned this renovation. Seeing the new roof, copper caps and stained glass windows should take all the citizens of Bucyrus back a few steps.

The Toledo and Ohio Central Railroad Depot in Bucyrus is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. When completed, the renovated station will include an Industrial Museum, series of his-

torical displays, an activity center and the latest technology.

After viewing the renovations of the Bucyrus Station, I was especially pleased to attend the Bucyrus Rotary Club which has donated nearly \$40,000 toward the station renovations. I am always glad to speak with civic groups across the Fifth District and the Bucyrus Rotary is another organization which has given back to their community.

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Your Congress: Discussing the Terri Schiavo Vote

As you know, the month of March became much more eventful in Congress because of the case of Terri Schiavo. The actions of the courts and Congress in regards to Terri Schiavo led many Americans to consider their own wishes and beliefs. I am not exempt from these feelings and would like to explain the congressional action taken last month with regard to Mrs. Schiavo.

On Sunday, March 20th, at 1:00 p.m. I, and other Members of Congress, were notified that the House was being called back into a special session that evening with recorded votes expected in the early morning hours Monday. I was able to get a flight back to Washington that evening. However, I had events scheduled in five counties of the district on Monday and had to cancel them on short notice. Everyone was very understanding of the situation, and I will be re-scheduling those district events.

While this case has received international notoriety, Congress's actions were not merely a result of the family's fame. Instead, I believe we acted to preserve life. This debate is larger than any one person. It is my belief that when there exists this type of contention and debate, we should err on the side of life.

In this life and death case, I felt Mrs. Schiavo should receive the fullest due process from our legal system. If a convicted murderer was sentenced to death, that person would receive the fullest review possible- in both the state and federal courts. I firmly believe that an innocent person deserves as much, if not more, consideration and due process as a prisoner of the state. Therefore, I voted for legislation which applied federal jurisdiction to the case of Terri Schiavo. This legislation did not force a determination upon the courts nor did it uphold the wishes of any party. This narrowly tailored bill simply created one additional measure of evaluation.

I believe I voted the right way on this legislation. I voted for this legislation which passed by a bipartisan vote of 203 to 58- with most Republicans and nearly half of the Democrats voting in favor of the bill. 147 of my colleagues were not able to return to Washington, but their presence would not have changed the margin. Our actions did not apply judgment or prejudice. Instead, we defended those who could not defend themselves, by applying an additional check upon society. Ultimately, Congress's intentions were just, not interfering with a family matter, but choosing to protect life.



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Your Congress: U.S. House Passes Federal Transportation Bill

In March, I voted for legislation which reauthorizes federal highway, transit, safety and research related programs over the next six years. The bill, titled the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (TEA-LU), will provide \$284 billion in funding for transportation improvements through 2009.

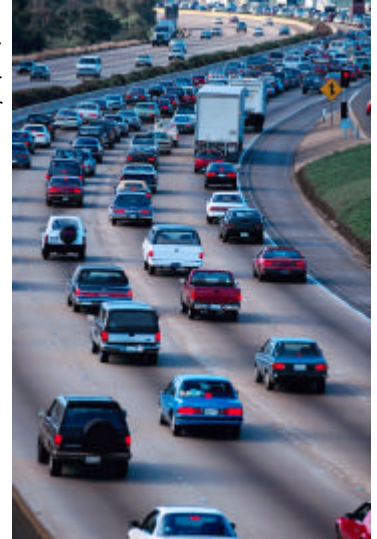
This legislation will create and protect millions of new U.S. jobs in the transportation sector. It is estimated that for every \$1 billion invested in the transportation system, more than 47,000 new jobs will be created in the United States.

The Transportation Bill will also relieve congestion on America's overburdened highways. Congestion leads to 3.6 billion hours of delays and 5.7 billion gallons of wasted gasoline every year. The Transportation Bill creates new requirements for projects that increase motor vehicle reliability, maximize roadway capacity and remove bottlenecks.

The Transportation Bill will also greatly improve safety on America's roadways by including an additional \$590 million in funding for a new rural road safety program. This program is especially important to the Fifth District because it focuses funding on safety improvements on rural two-lane roads.

Also included in the Transportation Bill, is an additional \$52.35 billion for public transit systems. This 45 percent increase in funding will help provide public transportation systems where they are lacking and improve systems where they are strained.

The Transportation Equity Act passed the U.S. House in by a vote of 417 to 9. The legislation awaits passage in the U.S. Senate before it can be given to the President for his signature into law.



Focus on the Fifth: Two More Fifth District Students Receive U.S. Service Academy Appointments

Once again, I am pleased to announce that since finalizing their applications and receiving nominations last year, two more Fifth District students have received appointments to U.S. Service Academies. I had the pleasure of speaking with both students to congratulate them on their achievements.

- **John Moonshower** (Ohio City), the son of Mark and Cara Moonshower, has been accepted to the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Co.

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John Moonshower is pictured with his parents alongside Congressman Gillmor and his wife, Karen.

– While attending Van Wert High School, John Moonshower excelled academically by achieving a 3.97 grade point average. John is an honor roll student, a member of student council, and a member of the football, baseball, and basketball teams at Van Wert High School.

• **Michael Persiani** (Perrysburg), the son of Nancy Hawk, has been accepted to the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO.

– While attending Saint John's Jesuit High School, Michael Persiani excelled academically by achieving a 3.9 grade point average. Michael is an honor roll student, captain of the hockey team and a peer mentor.

Marry Guzowski of Tiffin, Ohio was also offered an appoint to the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Co. This appointment is Mary's second to a U.S. Service Academy. Earlier this year, Mary was accepted to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

In addition to the congressional nomination, a successful candidate for appointment must also complete the individual academy's admissions process. Applicants are evaluated on academic achievement, demonstrated leadership ability, physical ability, and character.

This year, I nominated eighteen young men and women from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District for appointments to the four United States service academies.



Michael Persiani is pictured with his mother alongside Congressman Gillmor and his wife, Karen.

Town Meetings in Your Area

After conducting town meetings in New London and Grand Rapids this week, I have scheduled meetings in Stryker and Republic next week. These town meetings traditionally begin with brief remarks regarding current issues begin debated in Congress. However, most of the time is reserved for you to share your comments and opinions with me.

I am looking forward to visiting Stryker and Republic to discuss issues of concern with you. The busy Congressional schedule often makes these meetings difficult to plan; however, I am pleased to have this important time to meet with my constituents and discuss the issues which they care most about.

I have scheduled town meetings in Seneca and Williams Counties as follows:

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Monday, April 18, 2005

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
206 North Defiance Street
Shelter House
Springfield Township Park
STRYKER

Monday, April 18, 2005

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Village Hall
213 Washington Street
REPUBLIC

Congressman Gillmor's April Casework Onsite Schedule

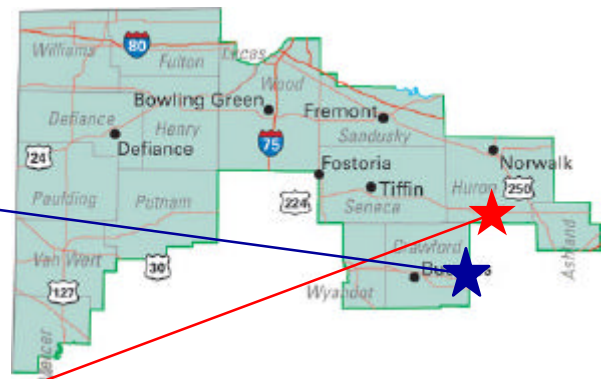
One of my goals as Congressman is to make sure that casework services are readily available to all my constituents. Unfortunately, the size of our sixteen county district makes travel to my Defiance, Tiffin, or Norwalk offices prohibitive for many. In order to ensure that my staff is accessible to all my constituents, I have scheduled casework onsites in Crawford and Huron Counties as follows:

Thursday, April 28, 2005

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Crestline City Hall
Council Chambers
100 North Seltzer Street
CRESTLINE

Thursday, April 28, 2005

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Willard City Hall
Council Chambers
631 Myrtle Avenue
WILLARD



If you are in the area, I encourage you to stop by and my staff will be happy to assist you with any problems you are having with the federal government.

Contact Me

If you have any suggestions on topics you would like to see addressed in my monthly updates, require any additional information, or would like to inform me of your views on matters concerning the federal government, please contact me anytime in Washington, DC or in any of my Ohio offices.

If you wish to forward your questions or concerns via U.S. mail, please address your correspondence to one of my Ohio offices as mail sent to the Longworth House Office Building in Washington is subject to a lengthy screening process and may not reach my office in a timely manner.